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Line 11, after "CO" insert ---.

Line 12, after "O₂" insert ---.

Line 28, after "O₂" insert ---.

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Line 3, after "SO₃" insert ---.

Line 11, after "CO" insert ---.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 2. (Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said exhaust gas purifying means includes,

an NO_x catalyst that adsorbs NO_x in the exhaust gas when the air/fuel ratio of the exhaust gas is lean, and releases or reduces the adsorbed NO_x when the oxygen concentration of the exhaust gas is reduced, the NO_x catalyst is located in the same passage and in series with the light-off catalyst, and

a three-way catalyst provided downstream of the NO_x catalyst in the exhaust passage, for reducing harmful components in the exhaust gas when the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust gas is in the neighborhood of a stoichiometric ratio.

Claim 4, line 1, change "1" to --3--